

LITURGY BYTES

Back to Ordinary Time



It is back to green in our Worship Area. This shortened season is known as Winter Ordinary Time. This year it lasts for five weeks with Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Having said that, I am sure you realize that Easter will be early, too – March 31st!

As we see the beautiful pieces of the Christmas just celebrated being removed, the simplicity of this next season is upon us. There are many different shades of green used by churches during this time. We are captured by listening to the unfolding story of the Paschal mystery in the Readings expressed through the public ministry of Jesus.

So, as we recuperate from an active holiday season, let us take time to reflect on the most important gift any of us have received, and begin to focus on this special gift and the importance of receiving it regularly. How do we encourage those around us who keep missing this moment each week? Last June, the Pope issued an encyclical filled with many words stressing the importance of the liturgy, particularly the Mass. He opened with these words: *“I simply want to invite the whole Church to rediscover, to safeguard and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration. The liturgy is the first source of divine communion in which God shares his own life with us.”*

How do you feel when you hear those words about the Mass and God sharing his own life with us? It certainly opens our hearts and minds to how special the Eucharist is for all of us. We know it because we are present each week at Mass. What about those who are missing at the Lord’s table? How can each of us work to bring someone back to Mass? Let us pray about this and begin our plan of action.

Have a blessed, prayerful, and healthy week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*